

# MBS Review Advisory Committee

## Communique – Meeting 16

The Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review Advisory Committee (MRAC) is an independent, clinician and consumer-led, non-statutory committee established to advise government on publicly funded services listed on the MBS. The committee supports the MBS Continuous Review to ensure the MBS is contemporary, sustainable, evidence based and supports universal access to high value care for all Australians.

## MRAC Membership

The MRAC is comprised of practising clinicians, academic, health system experts and consumers. Details of its current membership and Terms of Reference are available on the Department of Health and Aged Care [MRAC webpage](#).

The MRAC meeting held on 19 August 2025 was the final meeting for five of our members, whose terms expire at the end of October.

- Ms Jo Watson (Deputy MRAC Chair)
- Professor John Atherton (cardiologist)
- Ms Alison Marcus (consumer representative)
- Associate Professor Liz Marles (general practitioner)
- Professor Christobel Saunders (consultant surgeon)

We thank each of the outgoing members for their collaboration and valued contributions to the MRAC and subsequent working groups and wish them well in their future endeavours.

An expression of interest for MRAC membership has closed to fill the upcoming vacancies. Information on how to apply for MRAC membership can be found [here](#)

## MRAC Reviews

MRAC working groups may be established to conduct reviews and typically consist of a subset of MRAC members and where required, external subject matter experts.

Findings and recommendations from MRAC working groups are subject to extensive consultation processes prior to MRAC consideration and finalisation. Following completion of a review, MRAC recommendations are submitted to Government for consideration.

Final reports from complete MRAC reviews are available on the [MRAC webpage](#).

## MRAC Meeting 16 Outcomes – 19 August 2025

The committee meets quarterly, and most recently met on 19 August 2025.

Current reviews

Review of Vascular Interventional Radiology items

The Vascular Interventional Radiology (VIR) Working Group was established to conduct a review of Vascular Interventional Radiology items. The Department referred this review to the committee following the MBS Review Taskforce review of vascular items, and further consultation with the sector.

The VIR working group has developed a series of new and amended items that are intended to align the MBS with established, current and evidence-based clinical use of interventional radiology and interventional neuroradiology.

At the 19 August meeting, the committee endorsed the publication of the VIR Draft Report for an open consultation process. Feedback received from this process will be considered by the committee to help inform the Final Report which will be provided to government for consideration.

### **Review of Long-acting Reversible Contraceptives**

The Long-acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARC) review commenced in June 2024 to review MBS items used for insertion and removal of LARCs. This review is part of the Government's commitment to invest in Women's Health. The Review is being undertaken in two phases. The MRAC recommendations relating to phase one of this review informed a number of changes from 1 November 2025, including increased fees for LARC items, introduction of new LARC administration items for nurse practitioners, and the introduction of loading items that will incentivise GPs, nurse practitioners and specialists to deliver LARC insertion and removal services at no cost to the patient. Phase two of this review includes consideration of creating MBS items or other mechanisms to support payment specific to delivering LARC services by other health workers, such as endorsed midwives.

At the 19 August meeting, the committee endorsed the phase two recommendations of the LARC working group to be included in a Draft Report which will undergo an open consultation process. Feedback received from this process will be considered by the committee to help inform the Final Report which will be provided to government for consideration.

### **Review of MBS time-tiered items for primary care**

The Time-Tiered Working Group has been established to undertake the review of MBS time-tiered items for primary care. The review will consider issues such as item consistency, opportunities to streamline, and whether the current time-tiers appropriately support contemporary clinical practice.

The working group has met on six occasions with the next meeting scheduled for early December 2025. Two targeted stakeholder consultation forums have been held to date to discuss draft recommendations from the working group. An update on the most recent stakeholder forum was provided to MRAC at this meeting. A Draft Report is currently being developed, and an open consultation process is expected to commence in early 2026.

### **Review of Allied Health Services accessible under chronic condition management (formerly chronic disease management) arrangements**

The MRAC has commenced a review of MBS allied health chronic condition management services. The MRAC Allied Health Working Group will assess whether these services are adequately supporting eligible patients with chronic conditions. The review will consider the appropriateness of the number of individual allied health services per calendar year, amongst other matters.

An update was provided to the MRAC on the supporting research that is currently being undertaken to inform the allied health review. The Allied Health Working Group will meet later in the year following completion of the research activity.

## **Review of the inclusion of audiometrists as Allied Health Professionals for limited audiology items**

The MRAC formally commenced the review of limited audiology health services under the MBS to allow audiometrists access to selected MBS items within their clinical scope of practice. The Australian College of Audiology (ACAud) presented information on the scope of practice, education requirements and the code of conduct of audiometrists to the committee.

Following endorsement of the proposed scope of the review, a targeted consultation process will be undertaken.

### **Next meeting**

The MRAC will meet 8-9 December 2025.